Variable Hunt Plain Bob Minor at Leckhampton

Every now and then we try to do something a bit out of the ordinary at Leckhampton. We rang Variable Hunt Plain Bob Minor a couple of years ago, so we thought we'd have another go. The previous quarter peal was an indifferent composition, with uneven change repeats. This time we tried a new composition, a six part 1440, with every change rung once at handstroke and once at backstroke, unfortunately, the sixth just rings plain courses. The composition has the added advantage of coming round after 1273 changes at handstroke at the first change in the seventh lead of the sixth part (with 2 in the hunt). So far I've been defeated trying to get an all the work composition that has every change rung the same number of times.

The method is ordinary old Plain Bob Minor – with a variation. The hunt bell (normally the treble) is varied by the use of a third type of call. The place notation for a bob is 14, for a single is 1234, as normal. The third call, a **vary** has the place notation 34. The 'vary' causes the bells in 1-2 to dodge whilst the bells in 3-4 make a conventional single, the bells in 5-6 dodge as normal. The result is that the hunt bell becomes a seconds place bell, whilst the bell that would have been seconds place becomes the hunt bell. The 1440 composition is:

<u>123456</u>		<u>542316</u>		<u>134256</u>		<u>523416</u>		<u>142356</u>		<u>534216</u>	
312564	v	254163	v	413562	v	352164	v	214563	v	453162	v
326145		246531		436125		326541		246135		436521	
364251		263415		462351		364215		263451		462315	
345612		231654		425613		341652		235614		421653	
<u>534126</u>	v	<u>123546</u>	v	<u>542136</u>	v	<u>134526</u>	v	<u>523146</u>	v	<u>142536</u>	v
453261	v	312465	v	254361	v	413265	v	352461	v	**214365**	v*
436512		326154		246513		436152		326514		246153	
461325		365241		261435		465321		361245		265431	
412653		354612		213654		452613		314652		253614	
<u>421536</u>	s	<u>345126</u>	s	<u>231546</u>	s	<u>425136</u>	s	<u>341526</u>	s	<u>235146</u>	s
142365	v	534261	v	123465	v	542361	v	134265	v	523461	v
126453		546312		136254		526413		146352		536214	
165234		516423		165342		561234		165423		561342	
153642		512634		154623		513642		152634		514623	
<u>315426</u>	v	<u>251346</u>	v	<u>415236</u>	v	<u>351426</u>	v	<u>215346</u>	v	<u>451236</u>	v
531264	v	125463	v	541362	v	135264	v	521463	v	145362	v
516342		156234		516423		156342		516234		156423	
564123		163542		562134		164523		563142		162534	
542631		134625		523641		142635		534621		123645	
<u>542316</u>	–	<u>134256</u>	–	<u>523416</u>	–	<u>142356</u>	–	<u>534216</u>	–	<u>123456</u>	–

The 1273 comes round at handstroke one change after the * highlighted change 214365.

The composition is quite attractive in that 2, 3 and 4 are the principle hunt bells in the first half of each part, whilst the 1 and 5 have the second half of each part.

At practice, we tend not to have prepared touches, rather we mix the bells up with a couple of varies, and then call them round....

The quarter peal details are as follows:
Leckhampton, Glos. 20 Feb, 1273 Variable Hunt Plain Bob Minor: Helen Taylor 1, Barbara Pettit 2, Stuart Tomlinson 3, Catherine Heathcote 4, Huw Davies 5, Terry Jones (C) 6. First in the variation: 2. For Evening Prayer.

Terry Jones
Leckhampton, February 2005